

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 08228 301313Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00
FCC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 ICA-11 COME-00 BIB-01
USPS-01 L-03 /067 W
-----012654 301318Z /43

R 301308Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0206
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: ETEL, EIND, ITU, HU, UR, US

SUBJECT: ITU: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL-DISCUSSIONS WITH HUNGARY ON ITT VISIT AND ON POSTAL MATTERS

1. AT MEETING AMONG ITT REP IN GENEVA (EDGAR), HUNGARIAN REP ON ITU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (DR. LASZLO KATONA-KIS, CHIEF, WORLD ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SECTION, PTT), ITT REP ASKED KATONA-KIS WHETHER HIS ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO VISIT OF NEW ITT GENERAL MANAGER TO BUDAPEST IN JULY 1978 AND WHETHER HUNGARIANS WOULD PREFER EARLIER OR LATER PERIOD IN FIRST HALF OF JULY. (MEETING WAS ARRANGED ON FRINGES OF ITU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION, WHICH IS CURRENTLY IN SESSION HERE.)

2. KATONA-KIS REPLIED PROMPTLY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN HUNGARIAN TELECOMMUNICATION ADMINISTRATION RECEIVING ITT GENERAL MANAGER IN JULY AND THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS IF VISIT TO BUDAPEST

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FOLLOWED ITT TRIP TO USSR. THROUGHOUT ITU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING, KATONA-KIS HAS BEEN MARKEDLY DEFERENTIAL TO SOVDEL. HE HAS ALSO BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE IN RELATIONS WITH USDEL AND IMPRESSES US AS AN INTELLIGENT, SOPHISTICATED OFFICIAL, VERY CORRECT IN HIS RELATIONS WITH USSR.

3. DURING SAME DISCUSSION, KATONA-KIS MENTIONED HIS

ADMINISTRATION'S INTEREST IN RENEWING POSTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN U.S. AND HUNGARY. HUNGARIAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION TOOK INITIATIVE FOR RESUMPTION AND UPDATING OF AGREEMENT, WHICH DATES BACK TO 1922 AND 1928, ADDRESSING COMMUNICATION TO U.S. POSTAL OFFICIALS IN FEBRUARY 1978. KATONA-KIS IS CONCERNED THAT U.S. AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT YET REPLIED TO HUNGARIAN INITIATIVE AND ASKED USDEL TO PURSUE. HE AGREED TO PROVIDE COPY OF HUNGARIAN COMMUNICATION. USDEL AGREED FOLLOW UP WITH U.S. POSTAL AUTHORITIES ON RETURN TO WASHINGTON. DEPT MAY WISH BEGIN ACTION TO DETERMINE WHETHER PROBLEM EXISTS AND REASON FOR DELAY IN RESPONDING TO HUNGARIAN REQUEST.

4. KATONA-KIS ALSO TOLD USDEL THAT HIS GOVT IS INTERESTED IN ARRANGING VISIT OF HUNGARIAN POSTAL OFFICIALS TO U.S. IN RETURN FOR VISIT OF U.S. POSTAL OFFICIALS TO HUNGARY LAST YEAR. HE WILL PROVIDE DETAILS ON THIS PROPOSAL. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, POSTAL SERVICE, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA08228
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780225-1119
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978059/aaaaagwn.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a3cccba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2780593
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITU: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL-DISCUSSIONS WITH HUN- GARY ON ITT VISIT AND ON POSTAL MATTERS
TAGS: ETEL, EIND, HU, UR, US, ITU, ITT
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a3cccba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014